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NPC BRIEFING

*To be revised* 15 May 1955

SATELLITE REACTION TO SIGNATURE OF AUSTRIAN TREATY

- I. Speculation has been rife in Budapest and Bucharest about the possibility of Soviet troop withdrawals as a result of Austrian treaty.
  - A. There have been some rumors that Soviet troops would be withdrawn; others that additional troops would be brought in from Austria.
  - B. In both countries fears have been expressed that Warsaw Conference agreement will require the retention of Soviet troops under a new pretext.
- II. Satellite propaganda has interpreted signature of treaty as a victory for Soviet diplomacy.
  - A. A Hungarian editorial claimed, for example, that during the past ten years USSR made consistent efforts to restore Austria's independence, but the Western powers rejected every proposition.
  - B. All Satellite media, particularly the East German, have emphasized the line that the Austrian treaty is a model for Germany in achieving unity and independence.
  - C. Immediately following the signing of the Austrian treaty, Satellite comment on the agreement almost disappeared.

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